

# **Record Number Shows Up for Blood Pressure Screening at State Fair**



“I think it helped the senior citizens a lot because they were worried about their blood pressure. It helped me because I felt like I was helping them to relieve their minds,” says Hughes Jones Harrodsburg ATC Health Science Student Renee Readnower. “I feel a lot more comfortable about taking blood pressure as a result of this activity.”

## **Health Science Students from Shelby Co. and Hughes Jones Harrodsburg ATC’s Gain Valuable Experience in a Giving Way**

Once again, KY Tech health science students were a big hit at this year’s Kentucky State Fair as they took part in a special blood pressure activity in the Education Cabinet’s booth. Ten students from two area technology centers performed 752 BP readings from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. during Senior Citizen’s Day on Tuesday, August 24. Wow – what an impressive record!

**Vicki Long, Instructor**  
Hughes Jones Harrodsburg ATC



**Shelby Co. ATC Instructor Peggy Williford** (center) watches Omar Mandeel take the blood pressure of a fair goer.



**Under the watchful eye of Hughes Jones Harrodsburg (HJH) ATC Health Science Instructor Vicki Long, five students took readings nonstop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. In fact, Mrs. Long was right in there with her students taking care of numerous senior citizens as well.**

**“We were busy from the time we arrived until the time we turned over the reins to the Shelby Co. group,” says Long. “My students have done a wonderful job in taking care of our ‘patients.’ They stepped up and took on the role of being ‘the professional’ in this real world activity. They worked under a lot of pressure because of the**

**endless lines of people and I’m extremely proud of their performance.”**

**Shelby Co. ATC Health Science Instructor Peggy Williford also brought along five students who worked the shift from 2 p.m.-6 p.m.**



**“It’s an invaluable experience,” says Williford. “No matter how much you teach in class or how much the kids practice, it doesn’t become real until they do it in a real life setting.”**

**“I’m getting a lot of practice,” says Omar Mandeel. “Mrs. Williford is an awesome teacher.”**



A surprise for the day included a visit from Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura Owens (far right), Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) Executive Director Emil Jezik (center), and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter (left). All three were delighted to see how busy the students were and even took time to have their blood pressure taken. (Students are from the Shelby Co. ATC – l to r – Tiffany Thompson, Amanda Wheeler, and Omar Mandeel.)

**Miriam  
Connelly**

**“It’s a great experience and challenge. It’s so loud in here and all the distraction has helped me concentrate,” says Miriam Connelly, a HJH ATC student.**

**One senior citizen was so impressed with the way Miriam conducted herself that she presented her with a rose.**

**“That was amazing! It was so sweet that I just wanted to give her a big hug. She had just received it at a floral arrangement class,” says Miriam.**

**“It’s a good learning experience working with different people and seeing different personalities,” says Amanda Wheeler, Shelby Co. student. “I’ll remember how friendly and cooperative everyone was during the day.”**

**“It’s a great opportunity because we can practice and we are getting ready for clinical rotation,” says Lori Stratton, HJH ATC student.**

**“It’s a great chance to do BP readings in this environment before entering college,” says Dena Cornish, HJH ATC student. “We have to take our CNA test in December.”**

**“I had a wonderful time because I felt that the senior citizens needed me,” said Kim Price, HJH ATC student.**





**"I wasn't sure at first I would like this, but it's good," says Amber Searcy, Shelby Co. student. "I like it because people can come to us to find out if they have high blood pressure and then go to their doctor."**



**(r) "Oh, I love it. The experience you get working with different types of people is great," says Tiffany Thompson, Shelby Co. student.**



**Good News Flash #85**

**HJH ATC instructor and students pose with Carter, Owens, and Jezik**



**(at left) "I think this is a really good experience," says Brandy Hatter, Shelby Co. student. "Because it was so noisy, I learned a little trick. I turn my head to better position the stethoscope to drown out the sound."**